



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Intermountain Region

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Intermountain Region News Release

Intermountain Region Names American Indian Liaison

Dr. Cyd Martin, a cultural anthropologist with both extensive academic and employment experience working with Alaska natives, has been selected to serve as American Indian liaison for the National Park Service's Intermountain Region which encompasses 89 parks in eight states. "Cyd's nationally recognized work with Alaska natives, combined with her academic expertise and her dedication to the NPS, make her an ideal choice for this important post," said Intermountain Regional Director Karen Wade, who announced the selection July 15.

In her new job, Martin will be instrumental in developing policy, practices and action plans relating to the Intermountain Region's relationship with American Indian nations, and will represent the Regional Director in government to government relations with American Indian governments. She will also provide professional advice and technical assistance to the regional office, and to parks within the region, on matters relating to Indian affairs such as the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act. "I am honored to be selected for this position," said Martin. "I enjoyed working with native groups in Alaska and I look forward to getting to know people from the tribes in the Intermountain West. Parks and tribes share many common concerns that give us some great opportunities to work together."

Martin previously worked at Gates of the Arctic National Park and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve in Fairbanks, Alaska where she served as senior anthropologist and cultural resource manager. She was responsible for consulting with tribal entities on cultural resources within both the park and preserve and for conducting ethnographic, ethnohistoric, archaeological and historical projects.

Martin's work in Alaska was recognized in June with the prestigious Appleman-Judd award, a National Park Service honor for exceptional achievement in the field of cultural resources. Specifically, she served as liaison between the National Park Service's New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park and the Iñupiat Heritage Center in Barrow, Alaska, while working to ensure that Iñupiat contributions to the commercial whaling industry were included in the story told by the New Bedford National Historical Park. She also designed a project to explore potential connections between Arctic whaling and African-Americans sailors who escaped slavery on the Underground Railroad.

Additionally, Martin directed the production of *Han, People of the River*, an ethnography of the Han Gwich'in people, to be published by University of Alaska Press. The project involved consultation and collaboration with native villages in the United States and Canada. She also facilitated a partnership between Yukon-Charley Rivers National Park, Parks Canada and the Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation to produce an environmental history of the upper Yukon River. Finally, Martin worked with Nunamiut School students and teachers on a bilingual subsistence book written and illustrated by the children at the Iñupiat Eskimo village of Anaktuvuk Pass in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. The Alaska Natural History Association is publishing the book; royalties from the publication will go to the school.

Martin holds a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She will work out of an office in Jackson, Wyoming where her husband, Steve Martin, is superintendent of Grand Teton National Park. They have three college-age children.

A digital photo of Martin is available upon request by calling Karen Breslin at (303) 969-2707

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